UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.115/L.690
16 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
FRENCH/SPANISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 661st meeting, on 12 October 1992)

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Message from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]

The observance of this year's International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners has particular importance. Recent published news reports alleging wide-scale torture and death of suspects in the custody of the South African police underscore the renewed sense of urgency to the international community's long-standing call for the immediate release of all political prisoners by the apartheid regime of South Africa. Such a step would go a long way towards improving the political climate in South Africa.

As South Africa proceeds in fits and starts towards full-fledged, non-racial democratization, with the stalled second series of negotiations for a Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA II) about to be resumed, the international community is increasingly dismayed at the reluctance of the apartheid regime of South Africa to honour its commitment to release all political prisoners. The release of 150 on or about 26 September 1992 still does not satisfy the call for a full release.

In the international community, we remain firm in our conviction that if the apartheid regime of South Africa is sincere in its desire to rejoin our community of nations, it must act immediately to head off the dangers that could disrupt the ongoing process of a democratic transformation of the country. By releasing immediately all its political prisoners, one danger could be avoided. Until then, the international community will continue to regard sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa as necessary, and only the demise of apartheid can alter its status as an international pariah.

BURKINA FASO

Message from Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and President of the Council of Ministers

[Original: French]

The proclamation by the United Nations of an International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners is evidence of the importance which the international community attaches to the liberation struggle carried on for several decades by South Africa's brave sons.

The observance of this day, on 12 October 1992, affords us an opportunity to focus in particular on the fate of our South African brothers, who have been imprisoned for having dared to fight to free their people from inhuman and barbaric repression at the hands of the racist regime in Pretoria.

This struggle has a long history. In 1948, when the question of apartheid was already on its agenda, the United Nations called upon the South African Government to adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations by dismantling its abhorrent political system.

Since July 1964, when their first Conference was held at Cairo, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity have called for the release of Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Mangalisso Sobukue and all the other nationalists imprisoned or detained under South Africa's arbitrary laws.

Until recently, the numerous appeals on behalf of South African political prisoners were not favourably received.

The release of Nelson Mandela and some of his comrades-in-arms became a reality only because of the economic and political pressure which the international community brought to bear. We can take pleasure in that.

Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that several hundred men and women are still languishing in the jails of apartheid's henchmen. It is even to be feared that this number may increase if the pressure on the South African regime should slacken.

Accordingly, I take this opportunity to reaffirm our conviction as to the absolute necessity of maintaining and strengthening the economic and political sanctions against Pretoria until this repugnant system has been completely eradicated.

Lastly, I should like, on behalf of the people and Government of Burkina Faso and on my own behalf, to express support for the efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid, and to assure the Committee of my unfailing readiness to work for the immediate and unconditional release of South African political prisoners.

CHILE

Message from Mr. Enrique Silva Cimma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I reaffirm the commitment of the Government and people of Chile to all causes whose objective is to dignify the human being.

As a basic principle of its foreign policy, Chile has upheld the rejection of all forms of discrimination and racial segregation and, in general, all legal and political systems which endeavour to restrict the opportunities and inherent rights of human beings for reasons of race, creed or colour.

My country fervently hopes that the imminent end of apartheid will be achieved through peaceful negotiations, leading to the establishment of a non-racial democracy, without discrimination of any kind and based on respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CUBA

Message from Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

This year, the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners has a special significance since, in addition to the increase in racist violence in that country, for which the White minority Government is solely responsible, the South African authorities are now manoeuvring, under the cover of releasing political prisoners, to absolve the South African military and police of capital crimes, torture and abuse, through a general amnesty which would, in effect, place them above the law.

The international community must resolutely oppose such manoeuvres by the racist regime and demand that only those who are held political prisoners in South Africa because of their participation in the struggle against the apartheid system should be amnestied.

Cuba reaffirms its desire to support the release of genuine political prisoners held in South African jails, as one of the steps leading to the total dismantlement of apartheid in South Africa, a process which should include the formation of an interim, non-racial and democratic government and the final return of all political exiles.

At such a crucial time for the destiny of the Black people of South Africa, my Government reaffirms its decision to continue to support all efforts made by the United Nations to press the South African regime to release the remaining political prisoners held in its jails.

CYPRUS

Message from Mr. George Iacovou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, we would like to pay tribute to the important role played by those who have been committed to liberty and social justice in South

Africa, and particularly those men and women who have suffered as political prisoners for their views.

Their heroism, their dedication to the cause of freedom and justice and their firm determination to see the eradication of the inhuman and unjust system of apartheid has been a source of inspiration for oppressed people all over the world.

In the short time since Nelson Mandela was released, a dialogue about change and about the future of South Africa has been developing between the South African Government and the other parties concerned. This should lead as a matter of urgency to specific steps towards a non-racial, democratic and unified country based on the universal observance of human rights.

The struggle to reach this moment of opportunity has been a long and tortuous one but we are confident that whatever the temporary setbacks, all sides realize that there is no alternative to a negotiated settlement which will promise a peaceful future to all South Africans.

Cyprus holds to its view that the freeing of all political prisoners is an essential component in the process aimed at the complete dismantlement of the apartheid system.

A new birth of hope for South Africa would be in keeping with other positive changes in international society in recent years and would be an inspiration to all men and women engaged in the struggle for justice.

FINLAND

Message from the Government of Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries)

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Nordic countries wish to welcome the recent agreement between the South African Government and the African National Congress (ANC) on the release of remaining political prisoners. It is our hope that this agreement will solve all outstanding issues related to political prisoners in South Africa. This agreement also makes it possible to resume constitutional negotiations on a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Even though certain South African groups are still unwilling to join these negotiations, the Nordic countries consider it of utmost importance that the constitutional negotiations be continued and brought to an early and successful conclusion.

Any further delay in the peaceful process to create a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa will only add more fuel to an already volatile situation in parts of South Africa and further strain the patience of all those South Africans who have been disenfranchised for so long.

GUINEA

Message from General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea

[Original: French]

On behalf of the people and Government of Guinea, it is my duty to express our complete solidarity with the South African population groups struggling against the shameful system of apartheid. The recent events in the Ciskei have once again demonstrated the omnipresence of the policy of apartheid and all its degrading practices, ranging from arbitrary detention to the massacre of innocent civilians. Our country therefore adds its voice to those of all the peace- and justice-loving nations to demand of the South African Government the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the abolition of all discriminatory laws on education, health, bantustans and housing, and to insist that it should put a halt to the escalation of violence. While welcoming the dispatch of observers by the United Nations, which will make it possible to strengthen the structures established by the Peace Agreement, we urge the international community to do its utmost to contribute to a resumption of negotiations with a view to the elaboration of a new constitutional order for a new South Africa.

INDIA

Message from Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs of India

[Original: English]

The international community is observing this year once again the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. The Government and the people of India enthusiastically join other nations in reiterating their firm support to the people of South Africa in their struggle to bring into being a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Many significant developments have taken place in South Africa over the last year. Some of them, such as the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, led to optimism amongst the international community that the people of South Africa would soon be able to achieve their cherished objective. The Boipatong massacre and Ciskei carnage, however, interrupted the process of negotiations initiated by the President of South Africa, Mr. F. W. de Klerk and the President of the African National Congress, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

India pays tribute to those brave men and women of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in their struggle to secure a better future for the people of their nation. It is our hope that negotiations will now resume in earnest and that they will be carried forward to their logical conclusion. This is once again an occasion for the international community to show its solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle to bring about a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Message from Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I express the full support of the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the elimination of apartheid and the inequalities in South Africa. I call on the peoples and the Governments of the world to exert pressure unwaveringly on the apartheid regime unconditionally to release all political prisoners.

Recent massacres at Ciskei and Boipatong prove that despite the general changes and reforms - which have been given vast publicity and propaganda - there is a long and difficult way ahead before the effects and remains of inhuman apartheid thought are completely eliminated.

Inspired by the sublime teachings of Islam, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, closely following the developments in the region, decisively supports the undeniable political, economic, social, cultural and legal rights of the people of South Africa, and believes that attaining such rights and objectives is possible only through continued struggle and international support.

I hope that international efforts will speed up the attainment by the people of South Africa of their inalienable rights and completely eradicate the remaining inequalities and discrimination from that land.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Message from Mr. Muhammed al-Bishari, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

[Original: Arabic]

The policy of apartheid long practised by the South African regime has been in the forefront of the concerns of the United Nations, which has adopted

numerous resolutions urging a swift end to that policy. Our observance of this anniversary today is a renewal once again of the commitment of the international community to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of South Africa in their struggle to extirpate the apartheid regime and to replace it with a democratic and non-racist society in which complete freedom and equality reign.

The sixteenth anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners comes at a time when the region has witnessed successive developments leading to the abolition of a number of the mainstays of the apartheid regime, as well as to the release of some political prisoners and the return of many deportees. These developments have been welcomed. However, no one can disregard the fact that a large number of political prisoners remain in the prisons of the South African regime, suffering under its racist practices. Their suffering is increased by the obstacles created by the racist regime in order to thwart efforts to put a halt to its odious practices. Among such obstacles is the outbreak and explosive escalation of violence which threatens the process aimed at the swift elimination of the apartheid regime and dashes hopes for the release of those who suffer in its prisons and detention centres.

In its Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, which was adopted by consensus, the international community undertook to bring a speedy end to racist practices and to establish a united, democratic South Africa free from all discrimination. At this point in the struggle of the South African people to achieve that aim, it behoves the international community to continue to exert pressure on the South African regime in order to induce it to put a stop to acts of violence, to release the remaining political prisoners and to respect the will of the majority and the will of the international community and the relevant United Nations resolutions which call for the establishment of a democratic and non-racist South Africa. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya joins the international community in observing the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners and reaffirms its determination to continue its support for the struggle of the South African people until a complete end is put to the apartheid regime, which is still exerting desperate efforts to hide under new guises and has not shown any real readiness willingly to abandon its racist practices.

MALAYSIA

Message from Mr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I wish to reaffirm Malaysia's solidarity with those heroic South Africans who are still being held in prison for their struggle to secure recognition of their civil, political and social rights.

It is ironic and frustrating that after 16 years of the annual observance of this day, many political prisoners still languish in prisons in South Africa. We welcome the release of political prisoners by the South African Administration, including the recent release of 250 of them in September, but many more are reported to be still held in South Africa. We call upon the South African Administration to honour their commitment to release unconditionally all remaining political prisoners in line with the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1989, and to grant indemnities for political offences in the struggle against apartheid to the people inside and outside South Africa.

While Malaysia welcomes the changes that have taken place towards the dismantling of the system of apartheid, we are concerned at the increasing spate of violence in South Africa which has led to bloodshed and the loss of lives. These incidents have also eroded the confidence generated on the basis of the progress achieved under the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) and put the negotiations in jeopardy. The South African Administration must take urgent and appropriate actions to bring an immediate end to the violence and work earnestly for the resumption of constitutional negotiations. We wish to call upon all parties concerned to contribute to the establishment of a climate free of violence so as to allow the resumption of the CODESA negotiation process leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa. In this regard, we are hopeful that the negotiations will resume soon.

Today, it remains our obligation to extend wholehearted support to the South African political prisoners who have been unjustly imprisoned for demanding the right of self-determination and majority rule. It is imperative that we remain firm in our resolve to maintain international pressure against South Africa until the system of apartheid and its legacies are removed.

Finally, Malaysia avails itself of this occasion to express its profound gratitude to the Special Committee against Apartheid for its tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to the goal of dismantling apartheid. We reiterate our unswerving support and full cooperation to the Committee in pursuit of this objective.

NIGERIA

Message from General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

[Original: English]

On my behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I send these warm greetings to your Committee for holding once again the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.

Your Committee has, over the years, worked very hard to keep the entire question of apartheid South Africa in the international limelight. This should remain so until South Africa becomes a truly non-racial and democratic society. We salute the heroic struggles of the opponents of apartheid. We salute the South African men and women, in particular, for their courage and the sacrifices they have made for the good and lasting freedom of their country.

As your Committee marks this year's observance of the International Day of Solidarity, a few hundred political prisoners still languish in various jails in South Africa. We welcome the recent agreements reached between the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress for the release of all remaining political prisoners no later than 15 November 1992. We urge the Government of South Africa to abide by this agreement so that the dark chapter in South African history may be permanently closed to enable a true spirit of reconciliation to prevail in that country.

Once again, the Government and people of Nigeria wish you God's guidance and best wishes in the discharge of your mandate at this critical stage in South Africa's history.

PAKISTAN

Message from Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government and the people of Pakistan join the international community in expressing their complete solidarity with the valiant freedom fighters still languishing in South African prisons. In this era of enlarged freedom and democracy it is a matter of profound regret that many of our South African brothers are still incarcerated because of their political beliefs. It is their personal sacrifice which has always been a beacon of hope in the long struggle of the South African people for political pluralism, equality and self-respect. It is their sacrifice which has made possible the limited progress towards dismantling apartheid. Pakistan hopes that this progress will be rapid and conclusive. Therefore, we welcome the summit meeting between Mr. Nelson Mandela and President de Klerk on 26 September 1992, and particularly the commitment made by the South African Government to release 150 prisoners immediately and 400 more by November 1992. The recent visit of Mr. Mandela to Pakistan provided us with the opportunity to reaffirm Pakistan's full support to the struggle of the South African people for a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa. We admire Mr. Mandela for the sagacity and courage with which he has led the fight against apartheid and have assured him of our full support and solidarity in the final phase of his long and heroic stand to eliminate

apartheid. We will support the international community's endeavour to exert continued pressure on South Africa until the establishment of majority rule in the country.

PERU

Message from Mr. Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African political prisoners, the Government and people of Peru renew their support for the process of the final eradication of the odious system of apartheid, affirm their solidarity with the cause of the South African people in building a just and democratic society for future generations, and follow closely and with hope the political course towards national reconciliation.

PHILIPPINES

Message from Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Republic of the Philippines

[Original: English]

The Philippines is heartened by the result of the recent summit meeting between the President of the African National Congress, Mr. Nelson Mandela, and South African President Mr. F. W. de Klerk. We laud their combined efforts to remove the obstacles standing in the way of the resumption of negotiations on the future of South Africa. We welcome the South African Government's decision to release all remaining political prisoners by mid-November. We share in the joy of the families of those political prisoners recently freed and await the others who will soon be free. We look forward to the day when there will be no more political prisoners in South Africa and no more reason to mark the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.

The South African political prisoners have paid too steep a price to eradicate the inhumane system of apartheid. The long, difficult and lonely years behind bars have robbed them not only of their freedom, but also of their youth, health and years with their loved ones. What is profoundly sad is the knowledge that apartheid should never have been. No one should have had to suffer oppression and be denied his dignity and rights simply because of the colour of his skin. The painful legacies of apartheid - the injustice, the mistrust, the poverty, the violence - are harder to tear down than all the pillars of apartheid.

This occasion must stand as a solemn reminder that political prisoners have no place in a democratic society. As the political parties in South Africa prepare to return to the negotiating table, the members of the international community must help ensure that the sacrifices of the South African political prisoners will not be in vain. The historic negotiations on the future of South Africa must bear fruit - South Africa's transformation into a united, non-racial and democratic society.

SENEGAL

Message from Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal

[Original: French]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners is especially significant and important because it coincides with the anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly, on 11 October 1963, of the resolution calling on the South African regime to grant unconditional release to all political prisoners and to all persons imprisoned or interned for having opposed the policy of apartheid. It therefore gives me an opportunity to affirm, on behalf of the Senegalese people and on my own behalf, our full solidarity with the sons and daughters of South Africa who have been deprived of their freedom for having had the courage and determination to say no to apartheid.

Senegal, a country which is deeply attached to peace and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, ardently hopes that the distressing problem of political prisoners, which is one of the main stumbling-blocks in the negotiations that are currently under way in South Africa, will be rapidly resolved so that the South African people may regain their freedom and human dignity in calm and security.

The segregationist and discriminatory policy in South Africa, which is the main cause of the violence that is rife there, has lasted too long. It is therefore up to the international community to continue to put pressure on the South African Government so as to induce it to discharge fully its responsibilities to ensure the safety of all South Africans.

The South African authorities must come to the realization that the only course to follow is one which will restore trust and create an atmosphere favourable to the resumption of negotiations under the Convention for a Democratic South Africa and to the abolition of the system of apartheid.

In this context, we welcome the agreement of the African National Congress (ANC) to resume the dialogue with the South African regime, as well as the release of certain political prisoners and the adoption of other encouraging decisions to reduce tension.

At the same time, we must take care not to jeopardize the great hopes raised by the recent meeting between President de Klerk and President Mandela, and above all to ensure these talks lead to the results awaited by the international community, namely lasting peace and the rapid advent of a free, equal, democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

This is the outcome which the people and Government of Senegal and I myself ardently desire for South Africa so that the people of that country, already crushed by an infernal cycle of violence and injustice, can at last make use of their immense potential for the benefit of the economic and social development of their great nation. May these wishes, which are widely shared by the international community, come to fruition so that finally this sad page in the history of South Africa may be turned once and for all and the hearts of its sons and daughters may beat in unison in this important part of the African continent.

In conclusion, I am particularly pleased to note the interest which the Secretary-General of the United Nations always takes in the South African question, and the leading role which is constantly played by the Special Committee against Apartheid in the struggle to eradicate racism and racial discrimination in South Africa.

I therefore call on the international community to continue to provide full support to this cause, to which Africa in general, and Senegal in particular, are devoting all their energies. The OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa, over which I shall have the great honour to preside at Gaborone on 15 October 1992, also is a part of this process.

In the hope that this observance will crown our common efforts and mark the return of South Africa to the ranks of those States which cherish peace and justice and respect the principles of democracy and individual freedoms, I wish to reaffirm my full support for this noble and just cause.

TUNISIA

Message from Mr. Zine El Abdine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia

[Original: French]

As the international community observes the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, Tunisia, true to its principles and its commitment to the inalienable rights of people to freedom, dignity and equality, reaffirms its solidarity with the South African people in their struggle for the establishment of a democratic non-racial society.

Tunisia feels that the recent decision of the Government of South Africa to release some political prisoners is a positive step which should be

encouraged. It urges the South African Government to continue its efforts in that direction and appeals to the international community to remain vigilant as regards the need to secure the release of all the political prisoners still detained in South Africa.

The release of those prisoners would be likely to have a beneficial effect on the process of negotiations which should lead to the total dismantling of apartheid and speed up the establishment in South Africa of a democratic, united and non-racial society based on respect for human rights and the principles of equality, justice and freedom for all. That is why Tunisia, which fervently appeals for the establishment of such a society, welcomes the announcement of the forthcoming resumption of negotiations between the parties concerned, negotiations which it hopes will rapidly lead to a solution that meets the aspirations of the South African people.

UGANDA

Message from the Government of the Republic of Uganda

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the people of Uganda wish to reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of all measures to end the apartheid system which led to their incarceration.

Uganda shared the optimism of other nations in welcoming the encouraging developments in South Africa which resulted in the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other long-serving political prisoners. The years 1991 and 1992 heralded events which promised further dismantling of the pillars of apartheid and a move towards the establishment of a new democratic South Africa. The CODESA talks enthused the whole international community. Uganda had hoped the release of all political prisoners languishing in South African jails at this stage would enhance the process of the dismantling of apartheid.

We are, however, dismayed by recent developments in South Africa. Violence in the townships escalates day by day and the Government seems to be either unable or unwilling to curtail it. The negotiations for power-sharing between the Government and Black majority leaders are consequently suspended. Recent revelations of police brutality against Black prisoners which have led to deaths in South African jails have fuelled speculations on the integrity and sincerity of the White Government to end apartheid. How can there be genuine peace when the blood of Black South Africans continues to flow unrestrained?

Uganda will continue to support our brutalized brothers in South Africa until the total eradication of apartheid is achieved. The continued breakdown of law and order and the alleged South African Government's hand in this vindicates those in the United Nations who have been urging for continued

economic sanctions against the South African regime. The Government of Uganda will continue to support these sanctions until there are fundamental and irreversible changes in South Africa.

Uganda's view is that conditions of unrest and violence will only create room for further incarceration of Blacks in South African jails. On this occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, we wish to urge the White minority regime to create conditions for the early resumption of negotiations with Black leaders to establish a democratic South Africa.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Message on behalf of the States members of the European Community

[Original: English]

The European Community and its Member States welcome the opportunity provided by the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners to reiterate their commitment to the complete abolition by peaceful means of the unacceptable system of apartheid and its replacement by a democratic system in which all South Africans can participate in peace and harmony, regardless of colour or race.

The European Community and its member States have already welcomed on several occasions the significant progress made towards the complete and irreversible abolition of apartheid, though they are deeply concerned about the difficulties, particularly the violence, which remain.

They note that, following an agreement between the South African Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a large number of refugees and political exiles have now returned to South Africa. They welcome the release of a considerable number of prisoners in South Africa during the last few weeks, and the announcement of further releases. They believe that these developments should have a beneficial effect on forthcoming negotiations.

Finally, on the occasion of this day of solidarity, the European Community and its member States wish to reiterate their hope that negotiations will soon lead to an agreement on the shape of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Message from Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]

On this International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to reaffirm its unflinching support to the people of South Africa in their continuing struggle for the total elimination of apartheid. In marking this important occasion, the Government and people of Tanzania view, with deep anguish, the escalating violence in South Africa and recall especially the Boipatong and Bisho massacres, in which more than 67 people were brutally mu[illegible]ered. These massacres are yet another reminder of the unabating violence which is inherent in South Africa's repressive apartheid system.

The current round of violence further underlines the need for the international community, not only to maintain existing pressures on the Government of President F. W. de Klerk, but also to closely monitor the explosive situation in that unhappy land. In this connection, Tanzania welcomes the measures taken under Security Council resolution 765 (1992), in particular the sending of United Nations observers to monitor violence with a view to assisting in the efforts to end the violence and to creating the atmosphere necessary for the resumption of the negotiating process for the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Tanzania welcomes the understanding recently reached between ANC President Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk enabling the resumption of the negotiating process. As we observe the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, we welcome especially the agreement reached on the release of political prisoners. We regret that the agreement still leaves many political prisoners incarcerated, and demand their immediate and unconditional release. We urge the international community to continue to exert pressure on Pretoria until the last political prisoner has been released and apartheid has been eliminated. The Government and people of Tanzania pledge their continuing support for these efforts.

Finally, I would like, on my behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania, to express to the Special Committee against Apartheid, and especially to you its Chairman, our sincere appreciation of the Committee's work for all South Africans. On this special day, we recall especially its work for all South African political prisoners.

VENEZUELA

Message from Mr. Fernando Ochoa Antich, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government of Verezuela wishes to reaffirm its support for the struggle of the South African people for the establishment of a free, multiracial and democratic society and for the full enjoyment of human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural - by the entire population of South Africa. The Government of Venezuela would also like to reiterate its vigorous condemnation of the apartheid regime and pay homage today to all political prisoners and to all those who have dedicated their lives to the struggle for the abolition of that system.

The Government of Venezuela notes with interest the recent agreements between President De Klerk and Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, regarding the resumption of negotiations. Nevertheless, the interest of the South African people requires that all parties should be involved in this political process. In that connection, we hope that the new round of talks will lead to a definitive agreement within the framework of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) which would mean the birth of a genuinely united, democratic and non-racial society in South Africa. The international community should remain vigilant and maintain the sanctions until the system of apartheid has effectively disappeared.

The Government of Venezuela is convinced that the total elimination of the apartheid regime, the granting of equal rights to the South African population and the establishment of a democratic system, free of racial discrimination, will effectively contribute to peace and security in the region.